cently published, contains 448 genera of *Fungi*, Lichens, *Byssaceæ*, and *Algæ*; four great groups, which he arranges in two classes, FUNGI, and ALGÆ. The Lichens he considers as aërial *Algæ*. R. K. G.

IV. GENERAL SCIENCE.

34. *Notice respecting Mr Scouler's and Mr Douglas's recent Voyage to the North-West Coast of America.*—We mentioned in the number of our *Journal* for November 1825, the departure of Mr Scouler and Mr Douglas for the North-West Coast of America, and under what circumstances they went. We are enabled, through Mr Scouler, who has lately returned, to give a slight sketch of this voyage.

They embarked in a Hudson's Bay Company's ship at Gravesend on the 25th of July 1824, and arrived at Madeira on the 12th of August, where they spent two days in collecting plants and insects. At Rio de Janeiro they remained a fortnight, experiencing the utmost kindness from the inhabitants, especially from the English residents, and revelled in a tropical vegetation. From Brazil they proceeded round Cape Horn to the Island of Juan Fernandez, where they landed, and found inhabited only by a few adventurers, who make a livelihood by killing and curing the cattle, which are so plentiful there. All that remains of the Spanish colony, besides these cattle, are the battery and the church; for the place is scarcely visited by strangers, now that Valparaiso is thrown open by the independence of Chili. Thence they sailed to the Gallapagos, uninteresting in a commercial point of view, but abounding in natural, especially animal productions, which would merit much greater attention than our naturalists were able to bestow upon them. The mouth of the Columbia was the place to which they next steered their course; but the weather they encountered on approaching the coast of California was more changeable than any they had experienced in the former part of their voyage; and after six weeks of very severe storms, they at length came to an anchor in Baker's Bay, Columbia River, on the 8th of April 1825. As they had seen no natives during the first day of their arrival, they made a short excursion into the neighbouring woods, proceeding to the distance of some miles in a northerly direction, but still without seeing even the traces of Indians. The plant here which first attracted their attention, was the *Gaultheria Shallon*, crowned with its beautiful roseate flowers. From seeds of this plant, gathered as well by Mr Douglas as by Mr Scouler, individuals have been raised, perhaps for the first time in Britain, at the Botanic Garden at Glasgow. On the second day their impatient curiosity was gratified by the arrival of several canoes with Indians. These were, all of them, of moderate height, and few had straight limbs; they had high cheek-bones and flat heads, whilst many of the children were still bandaged about the heads with the boards which, by constant pressure upon the infant's skull, gives it that peculiar form which is characteristic of the principal families of the country. The dress of the people consisted of a broad sugar-loaved shaped hat, painted with different colours, and, for a cloak, their only covering, a robe made of the skins of a species of marmot, reaching from their shoulders to their ancles. This robe is common to the women as well as to the men;

but then the former had the addition of a straw petticoat, which descended below the knee. The few who had European dresses seemed very uncomfortable in their new costume.

From these people, however, no information could be obtained; nor till the afternoon of the same day, when a more intelligent visitor arrived, who was one of the company's Canadian servants, with whom, on the following day, they proceeded to Fort George, where they experienced every degree of attention from the governor, Mr M'Lellan. Hence it was that Mr Douglas made a voyage up the river to a new establishment, Fort Vancouver, 80 miles from the sea. He was followed soon after by Mr Scouler, together with a party from the Fort, consisting chiefly of French, Canadians, and Iroquois, in the company's service, and occupying five canoes.

They encamped the first night of the voyage upon a low marshy spot, which is annually inundated by the river, and where a beautiful water-snake was killed, a species of Hydrophis, in whose stomach was found a large bull-frog, with the elytra of a fine species of Dytiscus. Every where the banks of the river were tolerably thickly inhabited by a people who never till the ground, and who subsist almost entirely by fishing.

On the second day, the voyagers passed the famous Indian place of interment, named by Captain Vancouver Mount Coffin, and by the Canadians *Rochers des Morts*. These rocks, from which the place derives its name, appeared to be the cemetery, if one may so call it, of an extensive district. Owing to the dread, as well as the respect, which the Indians entertain for their deceased friends, they are accustomed to deposit them at a considerable distance from their dwellings. Here their bodies were placed in canoes upon the rocks, covered by boards fixed down with cords, and further secured by having great stones placed upon them. In the canoes were lodged many articles belonging to the deceased, particularly domestic utensils, as being their most valuable articles.

Fort Vancouver they found to be situated in a fertile prairie, abounding in many curious plants; and at this season (May) extensive tracts of country were almost covered with the blue flowers of the *Phalangium esculentum* of Nuttall, called kamass by the natives, with whom it is a favourite article of food. The plant a good deal resembles the common field hyacinth of our country. The root is about the same size, and, when roasted, has an agreeable and sweet taste. In botanizing in this agreeable spot, they were charmed with the little *Calypso borealis*, and the graceful *Linnæa borealis*, both of which are well known to be equally common in the northern parts of the continent of Europe. After this excursion, Mr Douglas made preparations for a journey into the interior as far as the falls of the Columbia.

In the month of June, Mr Scouler proceeded in the ship to the northward, visiting Queen Charlotte's Island, as well as Observatory Inlet. The Indians of these places speak a language totally different from that of the Columbian tribes. As to person, they are much taller, and a more muscular race of men than any the party had previously seen, and were far superior to their brethren of the south, both in industry and intellect. Many of them could speak a little English, which they had learned by their in-

tercourse with the American traders. The disgusting custom of flattening the heads of their children was unknown here, but it was replaced by another equally strange, though confined to one sex only. The females had a large incision along their lower lip, in which they put an oval piece of wood, varying in size according to the degree of dilatation to which the wound has been subjected, so that it would seem as if some acquired deformity was necessary to complete the character of savage life. Previously to returning to the Columbia, the expedition visited Nootka and De Fuca's Straits. At the former place, the suspicious character of the natives prevented our naturalists from spending much time on shore. It is really painful to reflect, that the only savage chief of this country perhaps now alive, who was brought into notice by Captain Cook, is one of the most daring characters upon the coast. So late as the year 1816, this individual succeeded in capturing an American vessel, of which he murdered the captain and all the crew except two individuals, who, after several years' captivity, escaped on board a vessel which accidentally visited Nootka. This chief well remembers Mr Mears and Captain Vancouver, and even speaks with gratitude of them. Maquina, a well-known character, is a stout healthy old man, but is still the same importunate beggar that former visitors had found him to be. His tribe indeed is now seldom visited by traders, on account of the hostile character he acquired, and the poverty of the place, yielding very few furs.

The straits of De Fuca, and the gulf of Georgia, are still more rarely visited. The natives bear a considerable resemblance both to those of Nootka and of the Columbia. Their language is similar; and they adopt the custom of flattening the heads of their children. They appeared to our navigators to be a peaceable and hospitable race, occupying both sides of the coast in considerable numbers, and subsisting chiefly upon the hunchback salmon of Vancouver and Mackenzie, and upon a species of halibut. In the summer, they reside close by the water's edge, and there lay in a stock of dried salmon for their winter provision. They migrate into the interior about the latter end of the month of August, and return to the shore in the month of April.

On returning to the Columbia, Mr Scouler again saw Mr Douglas, who had made the most successful journey to the falls of the Columbia, at a distance of 250 miles from the coast. During this interesting route, he had the good fortune to detect, besides several new plants, the greater number of those found by Lewis and Clarke. This indefatigable young man, still under the auspices of the Horticultural Society of London, is fulfilling the mission of that valuable institution, by returning over land to the east coast of America. During the remainder of Mr Scouler's residence upon the North-West Coast, his attention was not wholly occupied by the botany and zoology of the country: he lost no opportunity of acquiring as complete a knowledge, as the nature of the circumstances would allow, of the manners and customs of the Indians; add to which he collected many articles of curiosity, such as the dresses, arms, domestic utensils, skulls of the natives, and a well-preserved mummy.

A more full account of the voyage of this zealous naturalist will be given in the present and succeeding numbers of our *Journal*.